

RATIONALE

Head lice infestations occur for some students at irregular intervals throughout the school year. Parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice. The management of head lice infestations and the provision of support for parents, students and teachers is an important role for the school.

AIMS

- To have a clear and consistent approach to the management of head lice
- To provide information to the school community about head lice, their lifecycle and preferred habitat and the current effective methods to control and eliminate infestations
- To manage individual infestations by adhering to clearly stated and uniform procedures
- To minimise school community anxiety by acknowledging that head lice is present in most schools and that some students will have head lice at any given time

IMPLEMENTATION

- Information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice will be distributed to all school families and staff via a take-home notice and also a School Newsletter article at the beginning of each school year and as required during the year.

Information about the treatment and control of head lice is also available from the health.vic website:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/factsheets/Treating%20and%20controlling%20head%20lice>

This website will be published in the School Newsletter.

The following parent advice will be included in the annual notice:

- Regular, preferably once per week, inspection of hair for head lice or lice eggs should be carried out. An application of hair conditioner on dry hair and a head lice comb is a most effective method of lice egg removal
 - Regular inspection of all household members, followed by treatment of head lice if detected, should occur
 - Should head lice be detected, notify the School Office and advise when treatment was commenced.
- The School Office and individual classroom teachers will liaise with the First Aid Coordinator in all matters related to head lice.
 - Parents will be provided with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place student's health at risk and suggestions where treatment provisions may be readily obtained

- Students with untreated head lice will be excluded from school as soon as the infestation is noticed. Students may attend school as soon as an infestation has been treated using a current recommended procedure. The presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion if the hair has been treated. If a student attends school after treatment with live lice the student will again be excluded until the live insects have been removed
- When an incidence of head lice has been reported by a parent to the school, the First Aid Coordinator will distribute a note to all students in the area level informing parents that a case has occurred and requesting them to check their child's hair. Information about where parents may get further advice and information is also provided in the note

This policy was developed in consultation with DET's 'Suggestions for the Development of a School Head Lice Policy': <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/policy.aspx>

APPROVED:

Ratified by School Council: 26th April 2018



EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed every two years as part of the school's three-year review cycle.